

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-30 have been rejected. Claims 1, 29 and 30 have been amended

The drawings stand objected to as set forth in the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review". Applicant is in the process of obtaining Formal Drawings which should address all of the objections set forth by the Draftsperson. However, due to the number of sheets of Drawings involved, Applicant was unable to complete the Formal Drawings by the due date of this action. Applicant expects to have the Formal drawings completed and filed within the next month.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under Henson, U.S. Patent No. 6,167,383 (Henson). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 29 and 30 have been amended to include the definition of "catalog" as set forth in the specification at page 11, lines 4 – 6. Accordingly, such an amendment should not necessitate a new grounds for rejection as the amendment is merely defining the term as used in the specification.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 1, relates to a method for a manufacturer to automate a catalog process. The method includes creating a catalog of configurable products including at least one of non-commodity products and services, and presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog, the presenting being via a communication medium to a purchaser. The catalog allows the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 29, relates to a computer system which includes a processor, memory coupled to the processor, and a communications port configured to transmit a data file. The data file includes a catalog of configurable products with at least one non-commodity product and service to be received by a purchaser. The data file enables the purchaser to incorporate the data file into a procurement system. The catalog allows the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 30, relates to a system for automating a catalog process. The system includes means for creating a catalog of configurable products with at least one non-commodity product and service; and means for presenting a data file. The data file includes the catalog presented via a communication medium to a purchaser. The catalog allows the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products.

Henson discloses a web-based online store that includes a configurator, a cart, a checkout, and a database in which a user interface of the online store enables a custom configuration of a computer system according to an identification of a user belonging to a prescribed customer set.

Henson does not teach or suggest a method for a manufacturer to automate a catalog process, much less such a method which includes creating a catalog of configurable products including at least one of non-commodity products and services, and presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog, the presenting via a communication medium to a purchaser, the catalog allowing the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products, all as required by claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Henson. Claims 2-28 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Henson does not teach or suggest a computer system which includes a processor, memory coupled to the processor, and a communications port configured to transmit a data file where the data file includes a catalog of configurable products with at least one non-commodity product and service to be received by a purchaser much less such a system in which the data file enables the purchaser to incorporate the data file into a procurement system and the catalog allows the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products; all as required by independent claim 29. Accordingly, claim 29 is allowable over Henson.

Henson does not teach or suggest a system for automating a catalog process, much less such a system which includes means for creating a catalog of configurable products with at least one non-commodity product and service; and means for presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog presented via a communication medium to a purchaser, the catalog allowing the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products, all as required by independent claim 30. Accordingly, claim 30 is allowable over Henson.

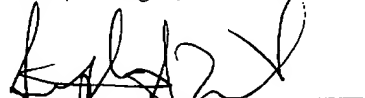
Furthermore, the Examiner has taken official notice of several facts throughout the course of his Office Action. Although Applicant is not calling for documentary proof of the officially noticed facts in the present Response, Applicant reserves the right to later assert the foregoing should Examiner not find Applicant's claims allowable.

CONCLUSION

The Claims and Specification have been amended to improve clarity. The rejection of claims 1, 2, and 5-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and the rejection of claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been addressed through the amendments to the claims. No new claims have been added.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to Group Art Unit 3625 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 16, 2002.

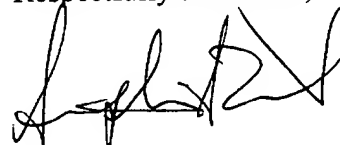


Attorney for Applicant(s)

12/16/02

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A

The following is a "Marked Up" version of the entire set of claims showing the changes that the accompanying submission makes to the claims of Serial No. 09/593,112:

1. (Amended) A method for a manufacturer to automate a catalog process, the method comprising:
creating a catalog of configurable products including at least one of non-commodity products and services; and
presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog, the presenting via a communication medium to a purchaser, the catalog allowing the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products.
2. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the purchaser includes at least one of a customer, a third party acting on behalf of the customer and a supplier.
3. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the manufacturer includes a third party acting on behalf of the manufacturer.
4. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file allows the purchaser to configure the products independent of a third party provided configuration tool.
5. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the presenting includes transmitting the data file to the customer.
6. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the presenting includes hosting the data file on a world wide web interface.
7. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes manipulable parameters that enable configuration of non-commodity product or service.

8. (As Filed) The method of claim 7 wherein the manipulable parameters include upgrades, downgrades and swapping of components.

9. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes non-manipulable parameters that contribute to the configuration of a non-commodity product or service including parent components, orphan components, child components, configuration components and optional components.

10. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file is configured to be incorporated into a procurement system, the data file providing a catalog of configurable components.

11. (As Filed) The method of claim 10 wherein the data file includes business rules in a structured data format.

12. (As Filed) The method of claim 11 wherein the business rules include rules for manipulating data including functional rules and configuration rules for integrating the data file into the procurement system.

13. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes data shared by the manufacturer and a host of the data file.

14. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes a configuration identifier, a price of the configuration, type of components, custom or bundled, upgrades, downgrades and additions permitted with pricing, work flow data identifying add configurations, discontinue configuration, replace configuration, effective data, and a discontinue date.

15. (As Filed) The method of claim 13 wherein the data file includes pricing according to predetermined agreements with the manufacturer and the host.

16. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes at least one of factory-installed components, non-factory-installed components, and subsystem configurations.

17. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes a core configuration including:

commodity and non-commodity default services; and
customer-specific integration components.

18. (As Filed) The method of claim 17 wherein the customer-specific integration components include customer specific software and menus, images, customer asset tag labels, and security cables.

19. (As Filed) The method of claim 17 wherein the customer-specific integration components include at least one of transportation industry options and transportation services.

20. (As Filed) The method of claim 16 wherein the factory installed, non-factory installed, customer kit and solution data includes the associated Stock Keeping Units (SKUs), including a third parties or a manufacturer generated SKUs and pricing.

21. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving an acknowledgment file approving configurations within the data file.

22. (As Filed) The method of claim 21 wherein the acknowledgment file includes acknowledging each parameter of configurable products, including components, pricing, services as acceptable and not acceptable.

23. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
transmitting an action code within the data file denoting product configurations requiring replacement in a procurement system, the action code permitting a purchaser receiving the data file to update open orders in the procurement system prior to delivery of an order without manual interaction.

24. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file provides data shared by a purchaser's procurement system and a seller's invoicing system.

25. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file is an (Electronic Data Interchange) EDI format.

26. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic data file is transmitted to the purchaser using an SGML format

27. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic data file is in a proprietary file format.

28. (As Filed) The method of claim 1 wherein the data file is periodically updated by the manufacturer to indicate pricing changes and production transactions

29. (As Filed) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor; and

a communications port configured to transmit a data file, the data file including a catalog of configurable products including at least one of non-commodity products and services to be received by a purchaser, the data file enabling the purchaser to incorporate the data file into a procurement system, the catalog allowing the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products.

30. (As Filed) A system for automating a catalog process, the system comprising:
means for creating a catalog of configurable products including at least one of non-commodity products and services; and

means for presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog, the presenting via a communication medium to a purchaser, the catalog allowing the purchaser to host the data file and to configure non-commodity products.

APPENDIX B

"Marked Up" paragraphs showing the changes that the accompanying submission makes to the specification of Serial No. 09/593,112:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 1, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [] (attorney docket number M-8809 US)] 09/593,109, filed [on even date herewith] June 13, 2000, entitled "Data Structure for use in an Automatic Order Entry System" and naming Theresa M. Gosko, Joyce Sham, Reynaldo Ortega, [Joy] Yu Fang and Emil Harsa, as inventors, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 1, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [] (attorney docket number M-8810 US)] 09/593,110, filed [on even date herewith] June 13, 2000, entitled "A System and Method for an Automated Inventory Process" and naming [naming] Theresa M. Gosko, Joyce Sham, Reynaldo Ortega, [Joy] Yu Fang and Emil Harsa, as inventors, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 1, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [] (attorney docket number M-9083 US)] 09/592,741, filed [on even date herewith] June 13, 2000, entitled "Data Structure for use in an Automatic Order Entry System" and naming Theresa M. Gosko, as inventor, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 1, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [] (attorney docket number M-9084 US) 09/592,739, filed [on even date herewith] June 13, 2000, entitled "Translator for use in an Automatic Order Entry System" and naming Theresa M. Gosko, as inventor, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 1, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [] (attorney docket number M-9085 US) 09/593,727, filed [on even date herewith] June 13, 2000, entitled "A Customer-Hosted Automated Configuration Catalog" naming Theresa M. Gosko, as inventor, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

This application relates to application serial no. [] (attorney docket number M-9086 US) 09/593,590, filed [on even date herewith] June 13, 2000, entitled "A Translation System for Configuration Data" and naming Theresa M. Gosko, and [Joy] Yu Fang, as inventors, the application being incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.